

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /128 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6073

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGE

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ELAB, EEC

SUB: CHRISTIAN UNION AFFILIATION WITH ETUC AGAIN DELAYED

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 6405

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 24 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) SET ASIDE AN ETUC SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION WHICH WOULD HAVE PERMITTED NON-ICFTU UNIONS TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ETUC. THE DECISION WAS OSTENSIBLY AIMED AT DENYING ETUC MEMBERSHIP TO EO/WCL UNIONS, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO SIDETRACK THE ITALIAN CGIL'S BID FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FACILITATED BY THE ADMISSION OF EO/WCL UNIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE AFFILIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS AT ITS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 24. THE STAUNCH OPPOSITION OF DANISH, GERMAN AND FRENCH MEMBERS OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS A KEY FACTOR IN DENYING ETUC MEMBERSHIP TO EO/WCL UNIONS WHICH WCL LEADERS AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE ETUC SECRETARIAT HAD VIEWED AS A CERTAINTY.

3. THE PRINCIPAL OPPONENT TO THE EXPANSION OF ETUC MEMBERSHIP WAS DENMARK'S LO PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSEN WHO, ACCORDING TO MISSION SOURCES IN ATTENDANCE, STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE ETUC SECRETARIAT FOR ITS FAILURE TO PRESENT CLEAR CUT PROPOSALS ON THE QUESTION. ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY THEO ROSSCHAERT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM NIELSEN AND OTHERS, PRINCIPALLY THE GERMANS AND FRENCH, WAS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH EO/WCL LEADERS SINCE LATE JULY PRODUCED "CLARIFICATIONS" RATHER THAN "AGREEMENTS". HOWEVER, IT WAS THE LACK OF CLARIFICATION ON THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF EO/WCL UNIONS WITH THEIR PARENT BODY, THE WCL, UNIONS ARE WILLING TO ABOLISH THE EO/WCL AS A CONDITION TO THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC BUT HAVE MAINTAINED THEY WILL STILL REMAIN AFFILIATED WITH THE WCL. NIELSEN AND A MAJORITY OF ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CLAIMED THIS WOULD ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT UNDER WHICH THE CGIL AND THE FRENCH CGT COULD DEMAND RETENTION OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE WFTU SHOULD THEY BE GRANTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ETUC MEMBERSHIP IN THE FUTURE.

4. BELGIAN FGTB LEADER GEORGES DE BUNNE REITERATED HIS DEMAND THAT EO/WCL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC BE TIED TO THE SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION OF THE CGIL AND THE CGT. THE BRITISH TUC, WHICH MANY OBSERVERS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE MOVE TO EXPAND ETUC MEMBERSHIP, OPTED TO REMAIN ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE DEBATE. THIS EFFECTIVELY DEFLATED

DE BUNNE'S INITIATIVE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A RUMORED TUC CONFRONTATION WITH THE GERMAN DGB OVER THE EXPANSION ISSUE.

5. ETUC SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM WERE ASSAILED BY BRITAIN'S JACK JONES AS PRODUCTS OF THE EC COMMISSION RATHER THAN THE ETUC. JONES REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THIS ABDICATION OF TRADE UNION RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE EC COMMISSION HAD MOVED HIM "TO THE POINT OF INDIGESTION". DESPITE THE JONES OUTBURST, HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS, WHICH LARGELY COINCIDE WITH THE SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE EC COMMISSION, WERE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: EVEN IF THE ETUC SECRETARIAT HAD PRESENTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN ANOTHER FORM, IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO WO/WCL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC AT THIS TIME. WHILE EO/WCL LEADERS ARE NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED AND RESENT THEIR RELEGATION TO PAWN STATUS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CGIL ADMISSION, THEY ARE ALREADY OPTIMISTICALLY PREDICTING THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC BY MID-1974. THIS OPTIMISM PROBABLY STEMS FROM THEIR AWARENESS THAT NEARLY ALL ETUC LEADERS, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE, CONSIDER THE AFFILIATION OF EO/WCL AND CGIL, IF NOT CGT, AS INEVITABLE AT SOME FUTURE TIME. GREENWALD

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